internationally competitive. Extension system is revitalized to bridge the knowledge gap between technologies in shelf and farmers through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). The Government has approved establishment of KVK in each of the 589 rural districts of the country. For transferring research results to the Government of India is extending support to State extension programmes to carry out extension reforms. It aims at providing a decentralized and demand driven extension system by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Managetnent Agency (ATMA) at district level.

Statement

Details showing the agriculture production and exports during the last 4 years

(Million Tones)

Part-(a)	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Foodgrains Production	213.19	198.36	208.60	216.13
Oilseeds	25.19	24.35	27.98	23.88
Sugarcane	233.86	237.09	281. 17	345.31
Cotton#	13.73	16.43	18.50	22.70
Part-(b)				
Total Agriculture Export (Rs. in Crore)	37266.52	41602.65	49215.96	61194.22
Percentage to Total National Export	12.70	11.08	10.78	10.70

* 4th Advance Estimates as on 19.07.2007

\# Million Bales of 170 Kg each

'Free Range' poultry

1389. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any incentive scheme or promotional assistance for producing 'Free Range' poultry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have noted the enormous demand for high quality 'Free Range' poultry in the European Union and elsewhere;

(d) whether small farmers and women could be encouraged to raise 'Free Range' poultry to supplement their income; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to encourage the small and unorganized poultry sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing a

scheme 'Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms' wherein one-time assistance is provided to strengthen farms in respect of hatcheries, brooding and rearing houses, provision for feed mill, feed analysis laboratory and in-house disease diagnostic facilities. These State poultry/duck farms assist the local population in rearing low-input technology poultry birds in backyard conditions.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The four Centers of the Central Poultry Development Organisation located at Chandigarh, Bhubaneswer, Mumbai and Bangalore provide training to farmers, women, poultry units in private and public sector, NGOs and cooperatives in various aspects of poultry rearing. Further, similar activities are also undertaken by the State poultry farms in their respective States.

Lesser price for agricultural produce

1390. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our farmers of vegetables and fruits, due to chain of intermediaries and high transportation costs, lose marketing competitiveness with global growers;

(b) if so, whether our marginal farmers end up with just 15-20 per cent of the final price as against 30-40 per cent in US and other developed countries; and

(c) how Government propose to effectively deal with this type of rentier-dominated set up which is creating a perverse set of incentives and disincentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various studies show that our farmers are normally realizing only 33 to 75 % share of the price paid by the consumers for fruits and vegetables, which varies from commodity to commodity and depends upon the types of marketing channels involved in the transactions. In USA and other developed countries, the price realization by the farmers is much higher compared to India due to less number of intermediaries involved and market efficiency.

(c) With a view to make alternative and efficient marketing channels available to the farmers, this Ministry has prepared and circulated a Model Law on Agricultural Marketing to all the States/UTs in 2003 for making necessary amendments in their respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts to provide for direct marketing, contract farming and setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors. This legal framework would enable the development of suitable value-addition and marketing infrastructure in public-private partnership mode which will make the marketing system efficient, reduce the intermediaries, help in developing shorter and integrated supply chains with lesser post-harvest losses, which would help farmers in realizing better price for their produce. By now, 19 States and Union Territories have implemented market reforms as suggested by this Ministry. There are no APMC Acts in 7 States and Union Territories.